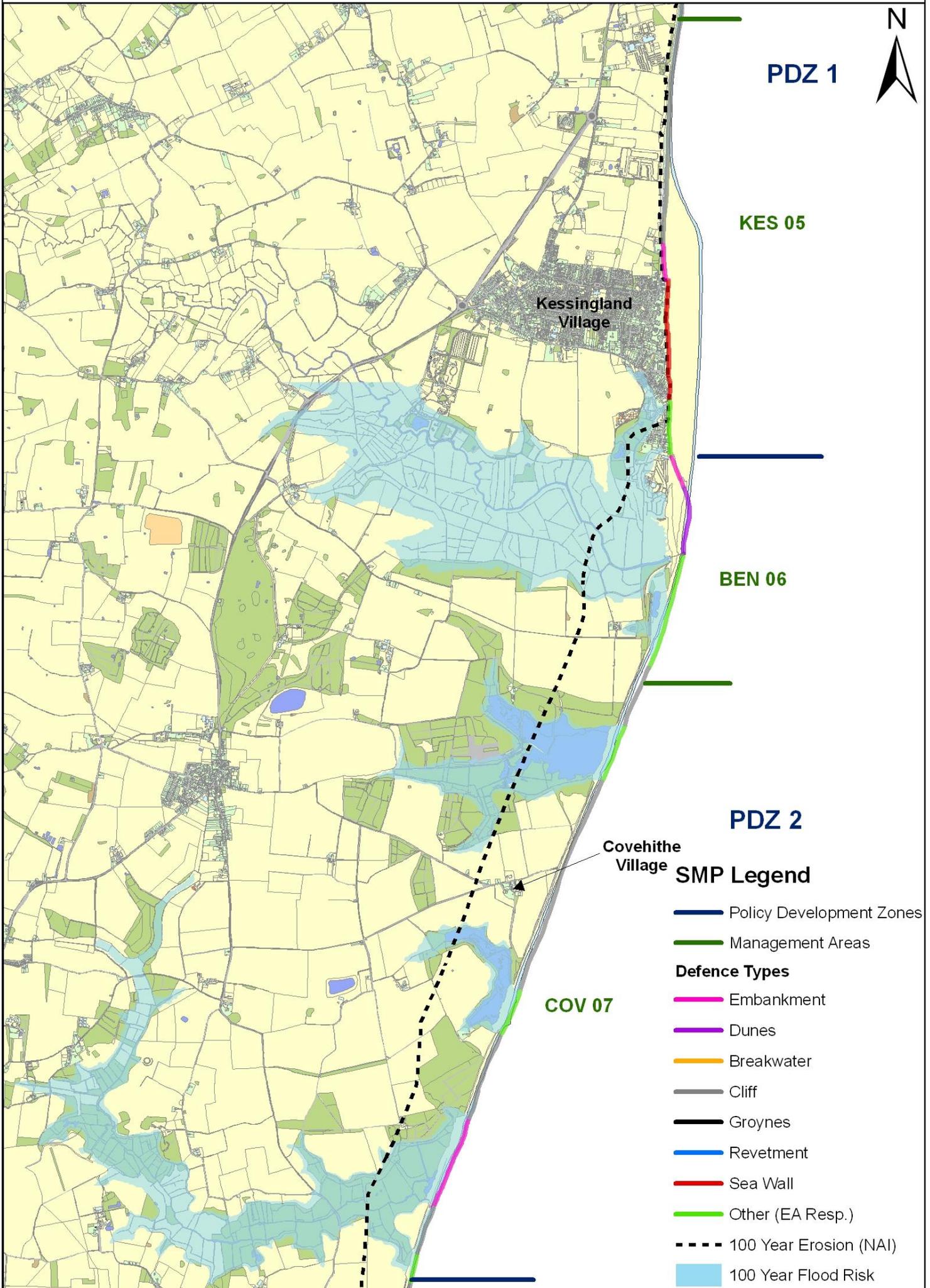
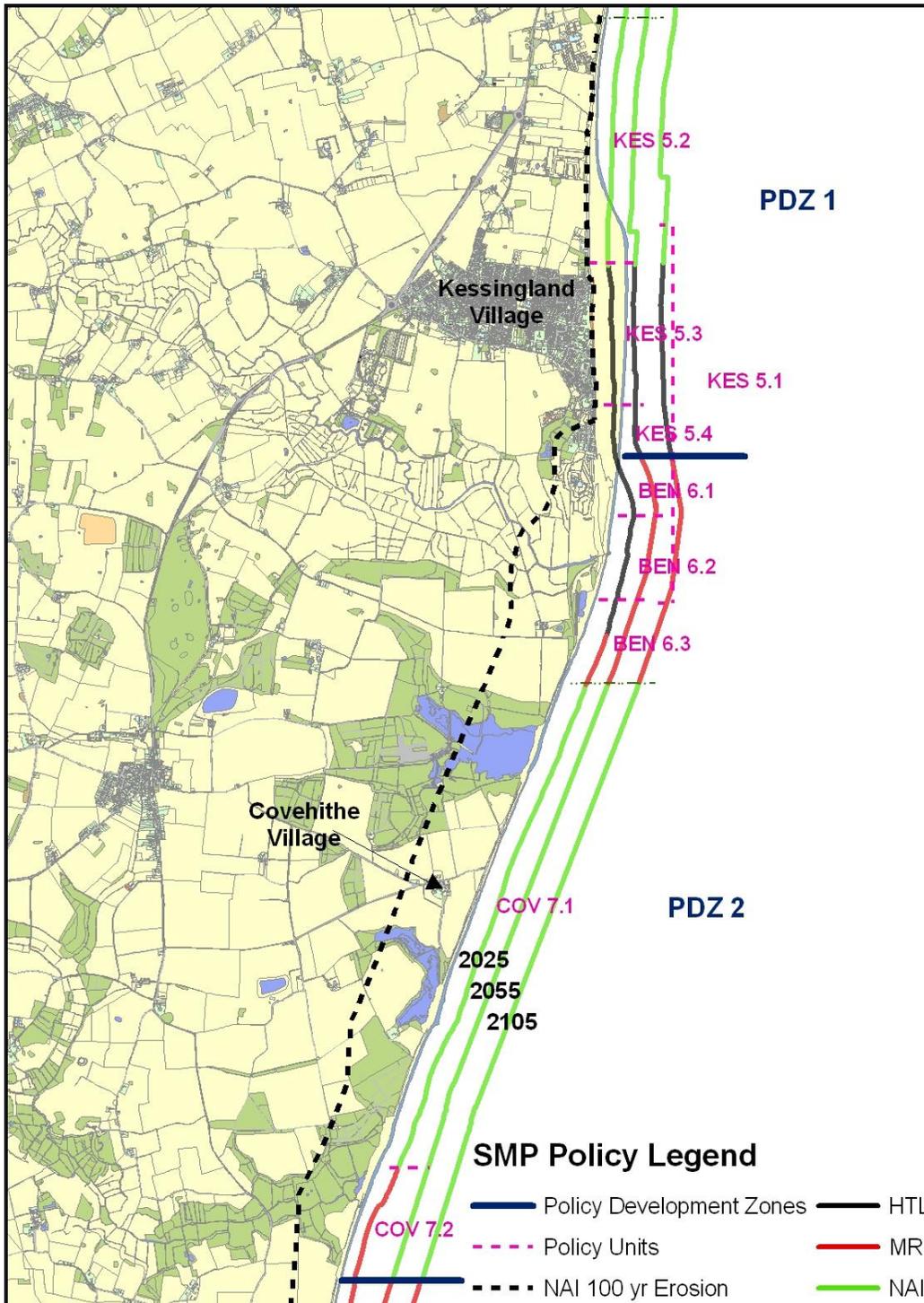


# SMP7 Summary - Kessingland to Covehithe





### Management Responsibilities

WDC: Kes 5.2 to Kes 5.3; Cov 7.1

WDC Assets:

Kes 5.2 Groyne field and timber breastwork (buried under Ness)  
 Kes 5.3 Bull-nose sea wall and sheet piled toe with concrete apron forming the promenade, timber groynes (buried under Ness)

EA: Kes 5.4 to Cov 7.2

EA Assets:

Kes 5.4 Concrete recurve sea wall  
 Ben 6.1 / Ben 6.2 Vegetated embankment, sand embankment  
 Cov 7.1 Sand embankment  
 Cov 7.2 Shingle embankment

### SMP Information

Area vulnerable to flood risk: Approx. 6,780,000m<sup>2</sup>

No. of properties vulnerable to flooding: 27

Area vulnerable to erosion: Approx. 5,130,000m<sup>2</sup> (2105 prediction – no defences)

No. of properties vulnerable to erosion: 55

Vulnerable infrastructure / assets:

Pontins Holiday Camp, Kessingland cliffs, White House Beach Caravan Club, Kessingland Beach Holiday Village, Hundred River valley/Kessingland Levels, Benacre pumping station/Hundred River outfall, Benacre cliffs, Benacre Broad, Covehithe cliffs, Covehithe village, Covehithe Broad, Easton Broad, Easton Marshes

### SMP Objectives

- To maintain Kessingland as a viable commercial centre and tourist destination in a sustainable manner;
- To maintain critical transport links; including a link between Lowestoft and Kessingland and throughout the area;
- To support the adaptation of rural industries and communities;
- To maintain biological and geological features in a favourable condition, subject to natural change and in the context of a dynamic coastal environment;
- To maintain a range of recreational opportunities along the foreshore;
- To support appropriate ecological adaptation of habitats, in particular the important Easton Broad National Nature Reserve;
- To maintain important heritage and archaeological value;
- To maintain or enhance the high quality landscape;
- To maintain access to and along the coastal path.

Policy Unit ID	Policy Unit Name (Location)	Current Policy 0-20 yrs Short	Current Policy 20-50 yrs Medium	Current Policy 50-100 yrs Long	Policy Comments	Action Reference	Action Description	Activity	Theme	Action Lead Organisation	Key Partners	Primary Action Objective	Epoch for Action Delivery	Epoch Comments	Priority	Funding Source	Estimated Funding Requirement (£'000)	Implementation Cycle	Target Start Date (financial year)	Actual Start Date (financial year)	Target End Date (financial year)	Action Progress Status 2016/17	Action Progress Supporting Information 2016/17
Work underway																							
BEN 06 - SWD 08	Kessingland to Southwold				The line of defence to the north may need to be adjusted in the final epoch. Some form of control would be envisaged to the south of the area. The flood defence line would be set back within Kessingland Levels.	19	The flood defence line would be set back within Kessingland Levels. The south Kessingland Village defence line may need to be adjusted in the final epoch. Beach control measures are envisaged to the south of the frontage.	Land Cultural and Environment Management	Prevention	Water Level Management Alliance	Waveney DC, Suffolk Coast & Heaths Unit, Natural England, Landowners, RSPB, EA, SCC.	Environmental	0-20 yrs Short		Medium		5000	Cycle 2 2015-2021		2012/13	2018/19	Progressing	WLY&LIDB have agreed to take the lead for the MR project at Benacre PS. Funding in place for Business Case development.
<p>ABP Associated British Ports, AOA Alde &amp; Ore Association, AW, Anglian Water, BE Benacre Estates, BEG, Blyth Estuary Group, BM Bawdsey Manor, CG Community Groups, DEP Deben Estuary Partnership, EA Environment Agency, EH English Heritage, EPP Estuary Planning Partnership, GYBC Great Yarmouth Borough Council, KC Kessingland Community, LO Landowners, LRA Local Residents Association, NE Natural England, NNDC North Norfolk District Council, NT National Trust, RSPB Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, SCC Suffolk County Council, SCDC Suffolk Coastal District Council, SCF Suffolk Coast Forum, SCH Suffolk Coast &amp; Heaths, SHT Southwold Harbour Trust, SSSC Shingle Street Settlement Company, SWT Suffolk Wildlife Trust, WDC Waveney District Council</p>																							

# **Kessingland to Covehithe**

## ***Summary Discussion***

Slow erosion of Kessingland cliffs will continue and this will have to be considered in relation to future land use above the cliffs.

Due to coastal processes Benacre Ness is moving north at a rate of around 20 metres a year. This massive shingle feature protects the coast behind. Over the next 100 years the Ness is predicted to continue to move so that the tail of the beach would be situated somewhere near the southern limit of Kessingland.

The main area of Kessingland will continue to receive protection from direct erosion and the policy for the main area of Kessingland is to hold the line. The movement of the Ness will expose the coast to the south to greater rates of erosion.

This is an area where there is greatest pressure for erosion on the coast and most rapid erosion rates. The significant changes, brought about by the movement of Benacre Ness, would have a big influence on the southern section of Kessingland village and how land is used within Kessingland Levels. This is a significant change from the SMP1 policy for the medium and long term (20 to 100 years hence). This change is managed to allow a more sustainable defence system to develop. The approach allows the natural appearance of the coast to be maintained, separating the flood risk management issue from management of the shoreline itself. The shoreline will remain in a similar position to where it is now, set back to allow natural adjustment but still maintaining that important Suffolk landscape of shingle and sand. Retaining this shoreline would allow flood defences to be re-established further back within the existing area of Kessingland Levels. The village of Kessingland would therefore be sustained, the A12 defended and the use of Kessingland Levels placed on a more secure footing.

This approach would increase the probability of flooding in the valley behind Kessingland Beach Road. Local improvement to flood defences would need to be considered to protect assets and properties. The approach is unlikely to be funded completely by the national flood risk management budget, although the current strategy for the short is to continue maintenance of the existing defence.

There is a period of somewhere around 15 to 20 years before action would be needed. This period of time needs to be used to develop a joint funding approach to managing flood risk.

While the policy for managing the coast further south has not changed a lot since the first SMP, this is one of two areas in the SMP area where the plan indicates the need to accept the most significant change in the future shape of the coast. The erosion of the cliffs provides a major supply of sediment to the coastal system and this is essential for maintaining defence to other parts of the coast.

There are, however, important land use issues. The historically important village of Covehithe and areas of internationally designated habitat would be lost. Despite this, it is not considered sustainable to attempt to manage the erosion. The village may be lost during the medium term of the SMP and agricultural land will continue to be lost over the next 100 years. The role of the SMP is to identify that these losses will occur. It is recognised that there is little potential for adaptation in terms of loss of the village so significant value will be lost.

Alternative sites for nature conservation will need to be identified away from the pressures of the coast. In terms of the heritage value the main issue highlighted by the SMP is the need to invest in further research into the area to record valuable information before it is lost.